

LESSON 34

TWENTY-FIFTH PATH

'The twenty-fifth Path is the Intelligence of Probation or Temptation, and is so called because it is the primary temptation, by which the Creator trieth all righteous persons'

This Path lies between Tiphareth and Yesod and is called the 'Intelligence of Probation' because it is the primary temptation by which all people are tried in this level of existence. Here our ideas of sensation (in Yesod) must be now lifted to see the higher spiritual values in Tiphareth. The temptation and pull of Yesod is ever present if we divert our attention from Tiphareth, and the only way to avoid the pull of this lower Sephira is simply set ourselves higher ideals and goals and go for them without distraction. Our ideas and actions are in fact "on trial" with the final judgement being death itself.

The Hebrew letter associated here is Samekh (or Samech) and means "prop" or "support" and has a numerical value of 60. This relates to other words of the same value such as BNCh meaning "to build a house", BChN "tried by fire" which relates to Sagittarius as a fiery sign, YKL "Power or ability". The word Samekh (SMK) has a value of 120 and equates with other words such as NAa meaning "to move" or "be agitated", KMS "to store up things of value", TzL "to shade" or "shelter", SS "being active". This entire concept is one of a fiery pursuit or disposition.

Samekh when utilised as a consonant relates to all types of hissing sounds. In its primal outline form Samekh is said to represent a bow with some emphasis on the sound the released string makes. As a grammatical sign it relates to any type of circular movement. Like the drawn bow it will ultimately return to its original state when released. Some consider that Samekh is an aspect of Zain that has turned back on itself and thus becomes reinforced.

The Tarot card Temperance is the trump associated here and shows an angel standing with one foot on land and another in the sea while pouring liquid from one jar to another as a volcano explodes in the background. This is the distillation or merging of the higher and lower forces so that a careful type of balance can be attained. It shows that a cycle has been completed and the next level is to be ascended. Mundane meanings of this card relate to co-ordination and adaptation.

The Egyptian myth of this Path is that of Sati, or Satet as she is sometimes called. Her name is said to have been derived from the root meaning "to shoot or pour out". In early times Satet was a fertility goddess and was connected with the sprinkling of water (over dry land). Sometimes was she depicted carrying a bow and arrows (and sometimes water pots) and was also considered a divinity of the hunt. Satet is often shown wearing a crown of bulls horns and as such is identified with the Isis-Hathor concept. Legend has it that Satet was the counterpart of

Khnemu and sister of Anket, and was worshipped mainly in the southern part of Egypt.

The Greek myth associated here is that of Chiron, chief of the centaurs and son of Saturn and Philytra (when Saturn visited her in the form of a stallion). Chiron was possibly the only noble centaur and as such was said to be the perfect balance between man and animal. He was married to Charicles, one of the water goddesses. Overall Chiron was a teacher of esoteric skills that he knew man must have, if he was able, to try and rise above himself. Chiron died when he offered to trade his immortality for the life of Prometheus. The Roman godform related here is that of Diana because of her prowess as an archer.

The Sun sign of this Path is Sagittarius and those born under this sign are mostly energetic people who take great pride in what they accomplish. Though they are considered idealists they seem to take things in their stride and are extremely open and frank in discussing their ideas. Sagittarius could also be considered the sign of the extrovert as these individuals are extremely outgoing in attitude with a pleasing disposition. They are what could be described as "up front people", what you see is what you get. Sagittarians are generally open air type people with a love of sports though they tend to be a little excessive in their pursuits.

The constellation of Sagittarius (the archer) is called Kesith in Syriac (which also means archer); in Arabic it is

called Al Klaus "the arrow" and in Greek it is Toxotes "the archer". There are over 70 stars in this constellation with the main one being Naim (Hebrew) meaning "gracious one" which is the same as the Arabic name Al Naim. This constellation is a very old one as far as recorded astrological history goes, though Greek mythology relates the shape and name to Chiron while even older civilisations still relate it to an archer. In Egypt Sagittarius was called Pi-Maere meaning "appearance of gracious beauty". Ptolemy said that the stars at the point of the arrow in this constellation have much the same type of influence as Venus and Mars. The stars on the bow and grasping hand are like Jupiter and Mars. Those in the waist are like Jupiter and a little of Mercury while those in the feet are like Jupiter and Saturn.

The magical weapon of this Path is of course the arrow which apart from its phallic representations is one of penetration and light (of the hidden knowledge). The arrow in this instance is an aspect of the rays of Tiphareth and the Sun which have been able to be penetrated by those who stay on the Path. In esoteric terms the arrow is a merging and a balancing of mans forces so that he can be let into the secret mysteries without deviating from the path. In the ritual of the Portal it states: 'Therefore by the straight and narrow Path of Sagittarius let the Philosophus advance like an arrow from the center of Qesheth, the Bow.'

The virtue associated to this Path is to regulate or place in order. It is here that man must merge the lower and higher aspects of his nature into a single unit so that he can advance

towards spiritual progress to uncover the nature and essence of his real self. It is a perfectly balanced concept of power and direction for it is here that man must take this new found unity and aim it at a place where it will do the most good. The concept of regulation relates as much to the unification as it does for the direction one is about take. Although journeys of this type for spiritual growth can be unconscious ones and guided by the spirit they also can be ones governed by hermetic and esoteric orders who have mapped out clear and safe Path for mans self attainment.

The vice of this Path is Puritanism and is the state where order for the whole transcends the rights of the individual, which are waved, so that the masses are served. In esoteric terms, individuals who are corrupted by this vice find that to impose this type of ideology places others in situations where personal freedom is lost and everything is decided by the state. One of the offshoots of this vice is to surrender to these forces, which reduces any growth experience that one has had into hardship. It also regresses back into past experiences that should have already been transcended.

Transmutation is the magical experience of this Path and relates to change. The oxford dictionary states that transmutation is changing one form into another form or substance. In hermetic terminology, transmutation relates strongly to alchemy though it does not mean it specifically. In this instance transmutation is the ability to transmute an aspect of the self

or unconscious into a unified force (such as a merging of the Nephesh and Ruach) so that a higher state of spiritual awareness can be perceived.

The mineral drug of this Path is Silicea and is a white powder that is classed as a type of quartz, though it is also known as Silicis Anhydride, Rock Crystal, Flint and Oxide of Silicon. It is a powder that has been used by many alchemists (such as Paracelsus and Glauber) for medicinal purposes and in recent years it has been much favoured in Homeopathy. This cell salt travels throughout the body eliminating various congested waste so that better elimination can occur. Its fundamental job is to rid the body of unwanted products, which usually brings out the poison in the system as well as helping bone growth and teeth enamel. Silicea is also found in the brain and nervous system and is considered one of the body's repairmen.

Birch elixir is one of the vegetable drugs of this Path and is made from the young leaves of the Birch tree; from it is made up a homeopathic remedy of Anthroposophical medicine for the purposes of correct elimination and distribution of protein. Betula cortex is another association here; it is made from the bark of the Birch tree and works on the process of demineralisation and acts against the dermatoses on the skin which also helps in diseases such as sclerosis. The Birch tree is hailed by Rudolph Steiner as one of the best sources of balancing the body's good health due to the numerous actions and interactions of both the bark and leaf.

The Indian association to this Path is that of the Pragapati who was known as lord of the creatures. He was a diety who was abstract in form but known to be a unifier of forces as the following quote from the Sata Brah', shows:

'Some call the Pragapati the Father with the five feet and the twelve shapes, the giver of rain in the highest half of the heaven: others say that the sage is placed in the lower half in the chariot with seven wheels and six spokes.'

The numbers here of course relate to the five seasons, twelve months, the seven planets, and the six months, which relate to the Sun passing over the equator to both the summer and winter solstice. This diety however was a fire or solar diety associated to Agni and relates to dispersing and spiritual gifts to those who deserve it.

Jacinth is one of the gemstones of this Path and has been used since the beginning of antiquity as an amulet against fever, plague and wounds. This was a stone much sort after by travelers as legend has it that anyone who wore the Jacinth would always receive a courteous reception wherever they went. Other stories associated to this stone are that it augmented ones riches and protected one against lightning. Among others, this stone was a symbol of protection against phantoms and evil magical influences. Andreas, a Bishop of Ceasarea in the 10th Century wrote: 'The Jacinth, which is of a celestial hue, signifies Simon Zelotes, zealous for the gifts and grace of Christ and endowed with a celestial prudence'. Though archaic in language it

adequately describes the spiritual aspirations connected with this Path.

The Elder tree (*Sambucus canadensis*) is the tree associated to this Path. The name *Sambucus* comes from the Greek "Sambuke" which relates to a pipe-like instrument which is usually made from the wood of this tree. There has been a great deal of myth surrounding the magical properties of this herb which is said to hide a spirit called the 'elder mother' who tries to protect the wood of her tree whether it be a piece of furniture or anything else. Though it was considered bad luck to own anything made from Elderwood, the point that relates to this Path (from a magical viewpoint) is the concept of the spirit of protection (of the tree) for its various parts. The medicinal qualities (according to legend) attracted the goddess Freyga who chose to live in the Elder tree. The leaves of this tree are good for skin diseases and as use as a diaphoretic.

The aromatic of this Path is Nutmeg (*Myristica fragans*), which is extremely good for psychic work and helps concentration and memory. If the oil is rubbed into the temples the aromatic properties take over and it produces a mild hallucinogenic effect. Wherever used internally or externally this plant can be extremely toxic and care is needed.

Centaur's here have a dual association as the animals associated to this Path (due to their speed) as well as the legendary order of beings. Chiron the Centaur was the exception to the

rule regarding the behaviour pattern of Centaurs for they drank when they could and were famous for their sexual encounters with human females and were considered nothing but wasters, though their physical prowess as beings of both human and animal natures gives them association here. They were extremists in what they did and bear many of the hall marks of the Sagittarian.

The Archangel of this Path is Advakiel (ADV KYAL= 72), who is sometimes called Adnachiel. The root AD indicates a single powerful object. The numerical value of 72 relates to other words such as ChSD meaning "abundance" and in another context "mercy", BCN "in", BSUD "secret"., This shows that Advakiel is a merciful archangel that goes about his work in secret. His reign is a vast one but he gives gifts to those who seek him out in abundance. By using theosophical reduction his name reduces to 9 and relates to AZA "make hot", GAH "increase" and ZB meaning "gush out" which are of course more relative meanings of this archangel when using the tarot trump as a descriptive basis.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF PROBATION
HEBREW LETTER:	SAMEKH
TAROT:	TEMPERANCE
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	SATI/SATET
GREEK DIETY:	CHIRON
ROMAN DIETY:	DIANA

MAGICAL WEAPON:	ARROW
VIRTUE:	REGULATE/PLACE IN ORDER
VICE:	PURITANISM
MAGICAL POWER:	TRANSMUTATION
MINERAL DRUG:	SILICEA
VEGETABLE DRUG:	BIRCH ELIXIR
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	PRAGAPATI
GEMSTONE:	JACINTH
PLANT:	ELDER TREE
AROMATIC:	NUTMEG
ANGEL - ARCH:	ADVAKIEL
ANIMAL:	CENTAUR

LESSON 35

TWENTY-SIXTH PATH

'The Twenty-sixth Path is called Renewing Intelligence, because the Holy God renews by it all the changing things which are renewed by the creation of the world'

This Path lies between Tiphareth and Hod and is called 'Renewing or Renovating Intelligence' because, by it, the Holy Spirit renews all changing forms which are renewed by the creation of the world. Taken to another level it shows a continual change in the growth structure of the individual, his consciousness. He uses what he can and discards whatever he cannot utilise. In many ways this Path is a testing or proving ground in seeing how the mind can cope with the rapid changes, yet still retain a formal structure. It begins to emanate a stream of universal consciousness through Tiphareth which is perceived and acted on by the structure that governs the individual's own inner beliefs.

Ayin is the Hebrew letter associated to this Path and means eye. It has a numerical value of 70 and relates to other words of the same value such as ML meaning "pluck off", SChB "pull by force" and KN meaning "honest". These root meanings relate heavily to the biblical aspects associated with the eye, such as if it has seen something it should not have and is to be plucked out. On a deeper level this shows or relates to the all-seeing

eye that one cannot hide ones actions from. The word Ayin has a value of 130 and relates to such words as KPL "to double or repeat", and SML "image or idol of worship" which clearly relate to both eyes and their function.

According to those like de Olivet, Ayin represents by its vocal characteristics the inner ear of a man and as such represents the state of the confused or dull and sounds without harmony. As a consonant it represents the body cavity of the upper chest. The Zohar states: 'To the letter Ayin, the initial word Avon, though it is claimed the origin of Anayana, the Holy one said: 'I shall not create the world by thee' and forthwith Ayin departed. By associating Avon (roughly translated as an evil act) to Ayin it relates it very heavily to evil manifestations.

The Tarot Trump related to this Path is the "Devil" and shows a winged goat headed satyr like demon whose legs are hairy and who has claws for feet. In his left hand he holds a downward pointing torch while in his right an elevated horn of water. He is perched on an altar with a male and female (demon) chained to each side of it. The entire concept is to show us the evil or negative side of the astral forces collectively gathered under one archetype. It is very much the lust for the material over the spiritual forces of life with a strong sexual theme attached to it. Whatever one attaches to this card it is still a force which cannot be ignored.

Set (whose name means "below") is one of the Egyptian associations to this Path. This god is often shown as a camels head with large ears and a forked tail. He was the son of Seb and Nut and the husband of Nephthys and was considered the archetype of evil itself and represented the negative forces of nature. His reign not only extended to land but to water as well and any area that rejected light. Though he was the god of the underworld Set also had a kingdom in the heavens which was typified as the constellation known of in modern times as the 'Great Bear' and was associated with the elemental forces of cold, damp and mist.

Pan (meaning "all" or "everything") is the Greek diety of this Path. He was the son of Hermes and Penelope and resided in the wooded area of Arcadia. Legend has it that he had two small horns on his head with a ruddy complexion and the lower body of a goat. He was on the odd occasion able to change his form and in one famous incident managed to seduce Selene by assuming the form of a white goat and drew her into the forest. Pan was strongly associated with the art of seduction but on its more lustful side than that of any of the other gods or goddesses. It is said that when he played on his flute he could captivate the heart of any woman.

The Roman god of this Path is that of Faunus who was known as chief of the satyrs. He was the son of Picus and Canente and was also a fertility god. His other name was Lupercus and had a temple named after him in Palatine where goats were sacrificed. Another association who is equally at home on this Path is the

Roman version of Bacchus (as the god of wine), the son of Jupiter and Semele. Bacchus was often shown as a young man with a crown of vine leaves with a thyrsus in his hand. Though many of his exploits are nothing to do with this Path his religion of drunken orgies does link him with Faunus and masculinity with distinct sexual overtones.

The Sun sign related here is that of Capricorn. Those born under this sign are emotionally immature and often show it by being an introvert. They are forever in thought and never do anything before thinking about it first. They can be timid people who often brood if things do not go their way yet will make no direct attempt to alter the situation. As a result of this introversion their entire resources are tuned into the mental approach which is their real source of power. Capricornians have a powerful concentration which can be useful when turned to subjects like economics, in which they seem to have a natural affinity. On the negative side they can be the very voice of doom itself and are said to be fatalistic in attitude.

In the early zodiacs of Egypt this sign was shown to have a goats body and a fish tail and was called Hu penius 'place of sacrifice'. The Hebrew name for this sign is Gedi which means the kid (or cut off) while its name in Arabic is Al Gedi with virtually the same meaning. There are over fifty stars in this constellation such as Deneb Al Gedi 'the sacrifice comes', Al Debik 'the sacrifice slain', Saad al Naschira 'record of cutting off' and Maasad 'the slaying'. Ptolemy observes that the stars

in the horns of the goat are like Venus and a little like that of Mars. The stars in the mouth are like Saturn with a small Venusian influence. Those stars in the feet and belly are like Mars and Mercury while those in the tail act like Saturn and Jupiter.

The magical weapon of this Path is to use sexual energy and its conversion for practical magical use. In Indian yoga this referred to the manipulation of the Tantric principle while in China it was called Taoism. In the west the sexual act itself and the tremendous auric power it generates was utilised for practical ends. Sexual energy however does not have to specifically generate from the sex act itself but can be harnessed (as the Taoists have shown) and converted back into the body system so that additional psychic power can be generated, but it requires supreme discipline to be able to do it.

The virtue of this Path is assimilation and is the jump off point where man leaves the self alone to seek another source or center of his power or purpose of life. In the initial stages of this Path he puts together his structure in a way that he sees that his far flung boundaries now can be confined because his gaze was still on the self. With contact from other levels of existence these borders have now narrowed and he realises that he must venture into this other area, but not only this for he must discover the core essence of it and act accordingly for the larger plan. In the latter stage of the Path the information he receives must be assimilated and this is the 'point de part' into

the next level of spiritual growth.

The vice of this Path is collectivising energy which differs from assimilation only in its use. While the former worked to a grand plan the vice works on an ego expansion and ignores the purpose of the greater plan and centers completely on the self. This still does not ignore the the greater plan, but focuses on how the individual can achieve greater power by participating in it with little regard to the plan itself other than that of a stepping stone or a glorification vehicle, which is something seen often in government today.

The magical power associated here is the power of the curse and its effect. The curse is of course not a negative concept but something that has polarities though it is described in the Websters Dictionary as a tool of evil intent but one can in fact be cursed with benefitting gifts as well. The concept here is that an individual can alter certain elemental and planetary aspects and bend them to suit his or her own purposes. Curses can in fact be broken down into the following categories: (1) using the name of a spirit to implement the procedure; (2) using ones own power.

The mineral drug is Calcium Phosphate which works on the bones of the body and supplies a type of bone strengthener, it is commonly referred to as the limestone of the skeletal system. Deficiency in this cell salt causes bone diseases such as rickets and tooth decay but when taken it acts quickly in helping the

rebuilding of blood corpuscles. A lack of this salt also prevents food from being digested correctly and plays havoc with the gastric juices.

The vegetable drug associated here is a tincture of Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racenosa*) which has ranunculin, salicylic acid, tannin and resin among its properties and works on helping to ease arthritis and rheumatic complaints as well as preventing cramps and helping to balance the bodies sex hormones.

There are a number of gemstones associated to this Path which can overlap with other paths. Some of these are White Onyx, Moonstone, Jet, Sapphire, Ruby and the Black Diamond. Some have considered that all stones that are black in colouring be applied here, while others have considered all stones that bring bad luck should be related to this Path which of course cuts across other associations. If a gemstone had to singled out that had all these characteristics it would be the Black Opal. These became commonly mined in Australia and were considered bad luck, so a Black Opal, though very valuable was the considered the worst possible stone to wear. This superstition comes from ancient Aboriginal legends that filtered through to those who mined the stone late in the last century and found their way to the outside world.

The plants associated to this Path are the Thorn and Thistle. The bible says in Gen iii: 'Thorns also and thistles shall it (ground) bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb in the field'. This passage relates these two plants to both

suffering and sorrow. The Thistle has long been a symbol of vindictiveness and suffering while the Thorn relates heavily to Christs suffering when crowned with thorns. The Thorn also relates to the Rose and guards it against being picked. In esoteric terms it is the suffering one undertakes before achieving union within the self.

Pine is the aromatic used on this Path as both an incense and an oil. As an incense it is mainly used to accumulate material possessions while the pine needles were used in purification and fertility rituals (of Celtic origin). The pine cones were often burnt in houses to make the female pregnant and the male more fertile. The pine oil has many attributes related to from protection against magic to being able to attract a member of the opposite sex with ones virility (through body scent). Also pine needles have been used in exorcism.

The legendary order of beings associated here are the satyrs, fauns, panes or sylvani. They were beings with an upper body like men though covered with thick black hair, and had two horns protruding from their heads and the lower body of a goat. They acknowledged Bacchus as their chief and attended all his orgies. They are noted as seducers of women and despite their extreme ugliness they become the inspiration of desire in any woman making her completely let go of her sexuality. It is said that one was actually captured while asleep in a cave and was brought to the Roman general Sylla, who was amazed that it closely resembled the above described creature so well documented

by poets and painters alike.

The Archangel associated to this Path is Hanael (HNAL=86) who also presides over the Sephirah of Hod. The Hebrew root HN relates to a painful act expressed through meditation. It links with the concept of relenting, clemency and pity. Also it relates, through its Arabic origins, to the idea of being apart and fixed in a defensive stance against the unexpected. The root MUS means "Cup" (which has a numerical value of 86) and presents the idea of mercy and prayer.

The goat and the ass are two of the animals of this Path. The ass in Christian terminology represents the animal who carried Christ to safety in Egypt and also carried him on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In the Egyptian-Greek culture it was linked to Typhon. In fact the ass along with the goat have a dual set of symbolism associated to them depending entirely on the time and place. Both these animals have also been used at witches sabbaths in a manner that would have raised the eyebrow of many a Christian or Jew. Today there has been a distinct leaning towards considering the goat a symbol of evil and the ass as its positive counterpart in the forces of light.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	RENEWING OR RENOVATING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	AYIN
TAROT:	DEVIL
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	SET
GREEK DIETY:	PAN
ROMAN DIETY:	FAUNUS
SIGN:	CAPRICORN
MAGICAL WEAPON:	SEXUAL ENERGY
VIRTUE:	ASSIMILATION
VICE:	COLLECTIVISING ENERGY
MAGICAL POWER:	CURSE
MINERAL DRUG:	CALCIUM PHOSPHATE
VEGETABLE DRUG:	BLACK COHOSH
GEMSTONE:	BLACK OPAL
PLANT:	THORN AND THISTLE
AROMATIC:	PINE
ORDER OF BEINGS:	SATYRS, FAUNS, PANES OR SYLVANI
ANGEL - ARCH:	HANAEL
ANIMAL:	GOAT AND ASS